cessional rate of basic customs duty of 10 per cent *ad-valorem* and auxiliary duty of customs at 5 per cent *ad-valorem* was leviable on cement including white cement. Certain representations from manufacturers of white cement were received in the end of 1984 and in the beginning of 1985 requesting for enhancement of customs duty on white cement. Keeping in view the increased indigenous production of white cement in the country and the fact that white cement was considered as a luxury item catering to the requirements of affluent section of the population, the customs duty on white cement was enhanced to 60 per cent *ad-valorem* plus 40 per cent auxiliary duty of customs. Additional countervailing duty equal to excise duty of 40 per cent was also leviable.

Surplus staff in public sector units

*69. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector units are saddled with surplus staff affecting their productivity and working;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce a 'Golden hand shake scheme' in these units to relieve the surplus staff; and

(c) what are the details of the scheme and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) to (c) In many public sector units, employees become surplus consequent on implementation of modernisation and product rationalisation schemes, etc., from time to time. Some enterprises had introduced voluntary retirement schemes to deal with such situations with diverse experience. These schemes differ from enterprise to enterprise.

Report of working group on energy conservation

*70. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 644 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 1984 and state:

(a) what are the major recommendations of the working group on energy conservation headed by the Secretary, Heavy Industry; and

(b) whether these recommendations have since been processed and accepted by the Government and implemented by the concerned departments and organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Working Group has made a number of suggestions regarding conservation of energy in the industrial, transport and agricultural sectors. These suggestions incorporate short-term and long-term measures which *inter-alia* include introduction of energy audits in industries, installation of waste-heat recovery and co-generation systems, equipment and process modifications, rectification of inefficient agricultural pumpsets and adoption/development of newer energy efficiency technologies in the industries and transport sectors. The Working Group has also stressed the need for an effective organisational set up, a revolving fund, fiscal incentives, educational and awareness campaigns, and the labelling of energy consumed by different equipment.

The energy conservation strategy of the Government encompasses most of these suggestions and action has been initiated on various fronts in pursuance of the same. Since most of the recommendations are basically indicative of the directions in which Government's efforts towards conservation of energy have to be channelised, their implementation will be a continuing process.